



## Sustainability & Natural Resource Management Board

Meeting Agenda | January 18, 2024

1. Approve minutes from the October 12th, 2023 meeting
2. Public Comment - *Members of the public are invited to speak to the SNRB about any issue related to SNRB business or any item that does not appear on the agenda.*
3. New member recommendations for workgroups
4. Phil Crowell - City Sustainability Issues Update
5. Eric Cousens - Review, Discuss and Provide Feedback in preparation for a Community Input Session on Order 04-01022024 Authorizing the City Manager to direct staff to work with the Agriculture Working Group, Sustainability & Natural Resource Board, LAWPC, the Planning Board, and public stakeholders to review the adopted amendments and recommend any changes back to the City Council. Attached is the background info from the Council Packet.
6. Brief reports from the Working Groups on matters of interest
  - a. Natural Products & Agriculture Working Groups Updates:
    - i. The latest Auburn watershed ordinance under reconsideration limits what types of Natural Products and Agriculture activities can take place in the watershed. Currently defined as limiting all “non hobby” agricultural activities , this would prohibit many benign types of activities such as maple syrup production, firewood sales and bee keeping just to name a very few. We have been asked as a group to offer suggestions and guidance to help redefine this ordinance and help promote agricultural and Natural product activities that would not be harmful to the watershed but of great benefit to property owners and our city.

- ii. Food Forest Plan - Misty Edgecomb - Tot Lot, 14 acres, \$50,000 ARPA funds
- b. Conservation Working Group Updates:
  - i. Engaging with incoming Council/Mayor
  - ii. Engaging with school committee, staff to recruit youth members
  - iii. Finalizing planning for pollinator activities
- c. Community Forest Working Group Updates:
  - i. CFWG 2024-2028 Strategic Plan presentation
  - ii. 2024 Project Canopy schedule forthcoming
- d. Sustainability Working Group Updates:
  - i. Solid Waste: Sustainability Working Group would like the SNRB to request that the City Council through a resolve or specific order task the Sustainability Working Group to work with the City Manager, Public Works Director, other relevant City staff on an analysis of Auburn's solid waste disposal system in preparation for the upcoming expiration of the Casella contract. The analysis would focus on optimizing costs and minimizing environmental impact.